

Bennett • Cafaro • Prianto • Peteri



17
DEC

DIGITAL
EDITION
US



WITCHBLADE



WITCHBLADE[®]

created by **Marc Silvestri, David Wohl, Brian Haberlin & Michael Turner**

New York City Police Detective Sara Pezzini's life was forever fractured by her father's murder. Cold, cunning, and hellbent on revenge, Sara now stalks a vicious criminal cabal beneath the city. During a brutal warehouse massacre, Sara bonded with the Witchblade, an ancient weapon that transformed her into something wild, magnificent, and beyond her darkest imaginings.

Previously... New York City Police Detective Sara Pezzini's dive into the world of the supernatural began with the search into the cover-up that destroyed her father. Along the way, she bonded with an ancient weapon known as the Witchblade, which, following recent events, has gone through a new transformation, bound by the powers of darkness and light, becoming something new that hangs in the balance. In a brutal showdown with the supernatural serial killer known as Grinteeth, Sara makes a life-or-death decision to save a cop and let the murderer escape. Following a hunch, Sara goes over the clues to Grinteeth's identity with Lisa Búzio, and together they find a lead to the source of the slayer's power. Deep in the creosote nest where Sara was transformed by the Witchblade again, the pair discovers that the severed hand of the Angelic being Sara saved is missing. Putting the pieces together, Sara deduces that the person who may have taken it was a victim of human trafficking that Sara had previously saved. Now Grinteeth has upped the stakes and taken a hostage, and Sara has to spring into action before Grinteeth claims another victim.

"Badlands"

Written by **Marguerite Bennett**

Line art by **Giuseppe Cafaro**

Colors by **Arif Prianto** • Letters by **Troy Peteri**

Edits by **Marc Silvestri, Matt Hawkins** and **Ryan Cady**

Cover A: **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**

Cover B, C (Line art), D (Pencils), and Top Cow Store Spot Foil Exclusive:
Brett Booth, Sal Regla, and Gibran Ferdian



For Top Cow Productions, Inc.
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Matt Hawkins - President & COO
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THE APARTMENT OF LISA BÚZIO.

My twelve victims shall be guilty to a man.

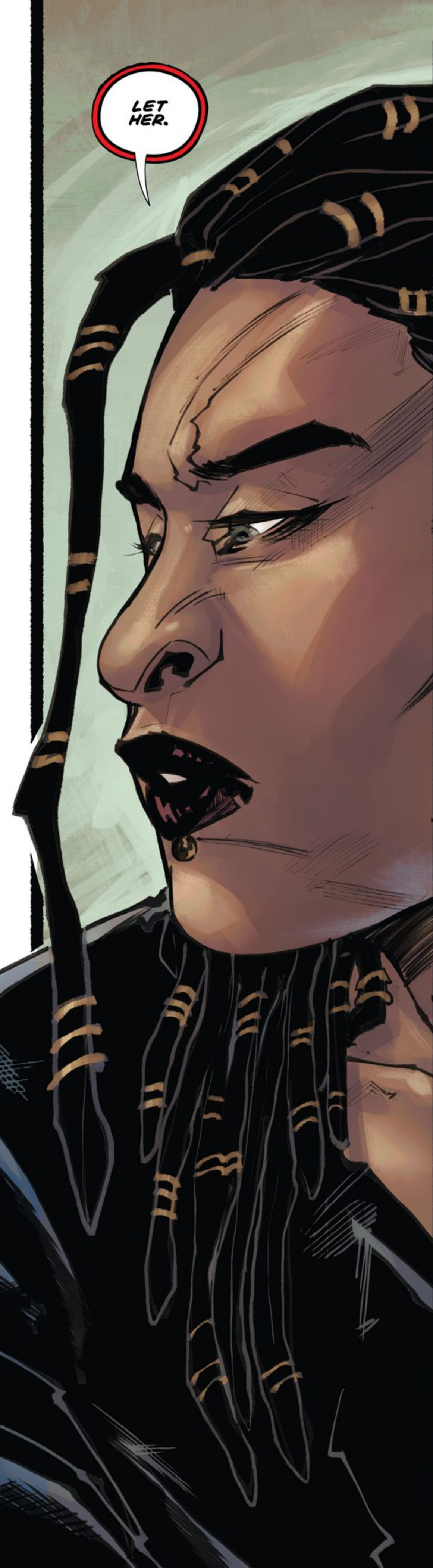
Murderers of the innocent. No exceptions, no reasons, no abuse, no revenge.

Murderers of needy children. Murderers of inconvenient spouses. Murderers of elderly parents who sat on inheritances and refused to die.

The city will not howl if I execute these men.

But you wish to stop me?

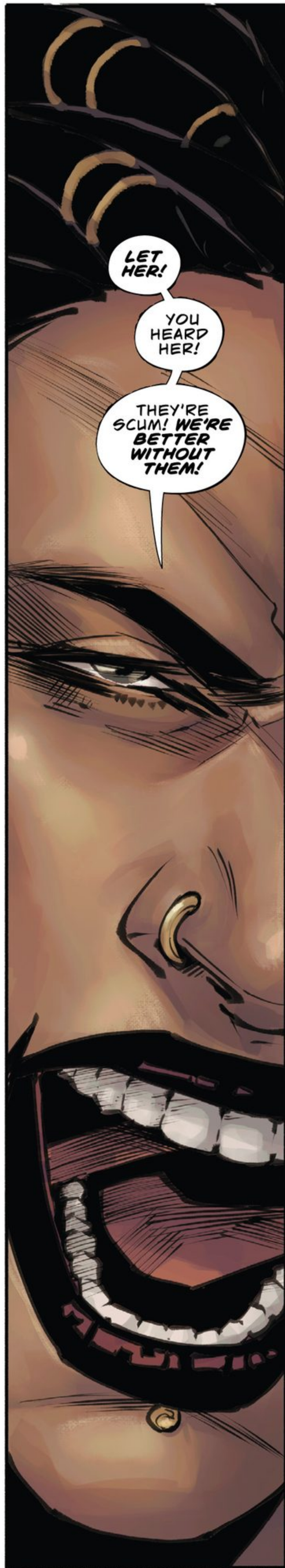
Then come and stop me.



LET
HER.



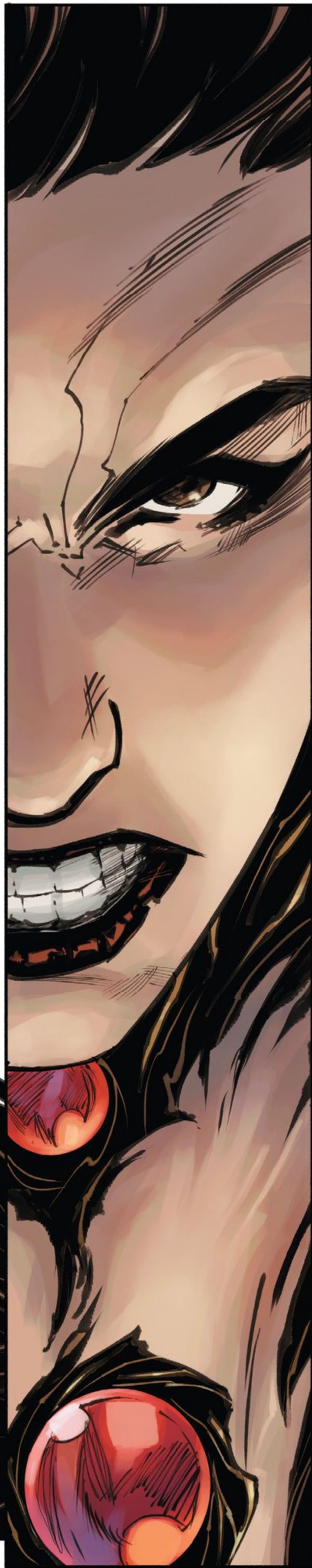
WHAT?!



LET
HER!

YOU
HEARD
HER!

THEY'RE
SCUM! WE'RE
BETTER
WITHOUT
THEM!





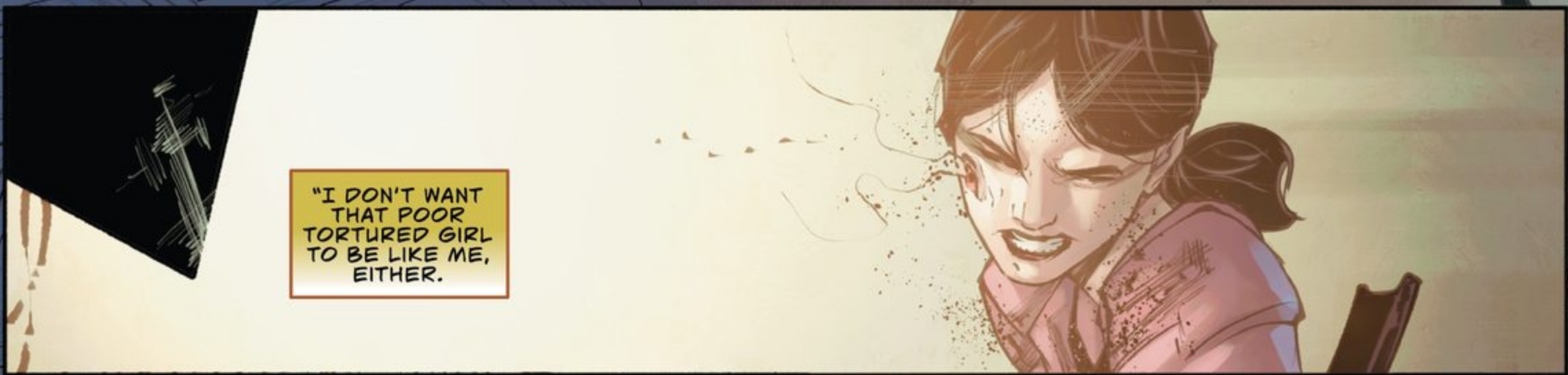
"I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S RIGHT."

"I ONLY
KNOW
WHAT'S
WRONG."



"I THINK
THIS IS
GOODBYE,
KID."

"I DON'T
WANT YOU
TO BE
LIKE ME."



"I DON'T WANT
THAT POOR
TORTURED GIRL
TO BE LIKE ME,
EITHER."



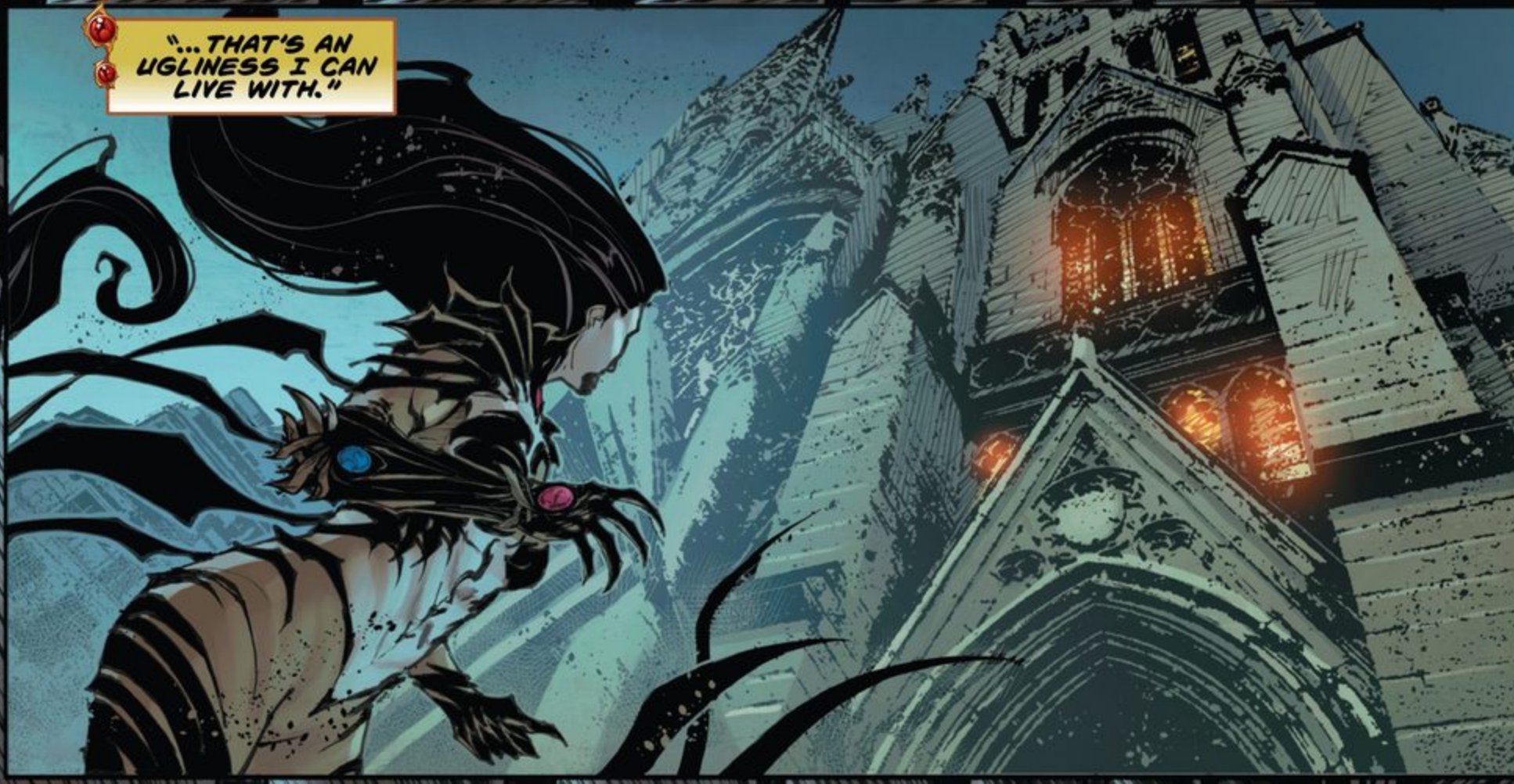
"A HERO
WHO MAKES
EVERYTHING
WORSE."



"SO IF I REACH
THE RIGHT
ANSWER FOR
THE WRONG
REASONS..."



"IF I SAVE THOSE
BASTARDS TO
SAVE THE GIRL
WHO'S READY TO
KILL THEM..."



"...THAT'S AN UGLINESS I CAN LIVE WITH."



YOU KNOW...

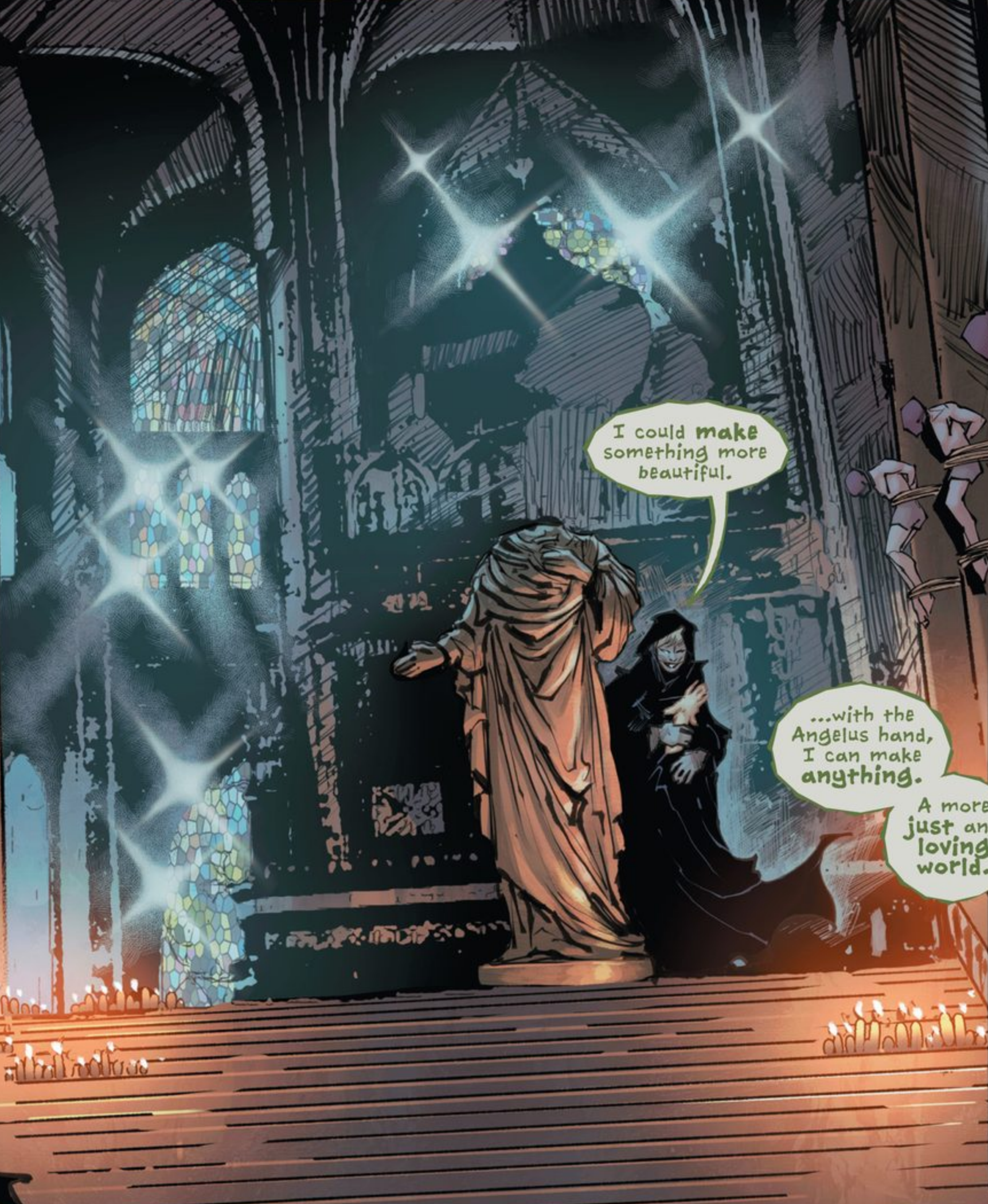
I'VE FOUGHT IN DUNGEONS AND DESERTS AND JUNGLES AND JAIL CELLS.

I'VE FOUGHT IN A SECRET COLLAPSIBLE DOJO RUN BY MY PHANTOM LOVER.

I'VE FOUGHT IN A MAGICAL COLOSSEUM IN A BILLIONAIRE'S PENTHOUSE, AND I'VE FOUGHT IN THE TEMPLE CRYPT OF AN UNDEAD RACE.



BUT NOTHING HAS EVER BEEN AS PRETTY AS A CATHEDRAL IN THE SNOW.

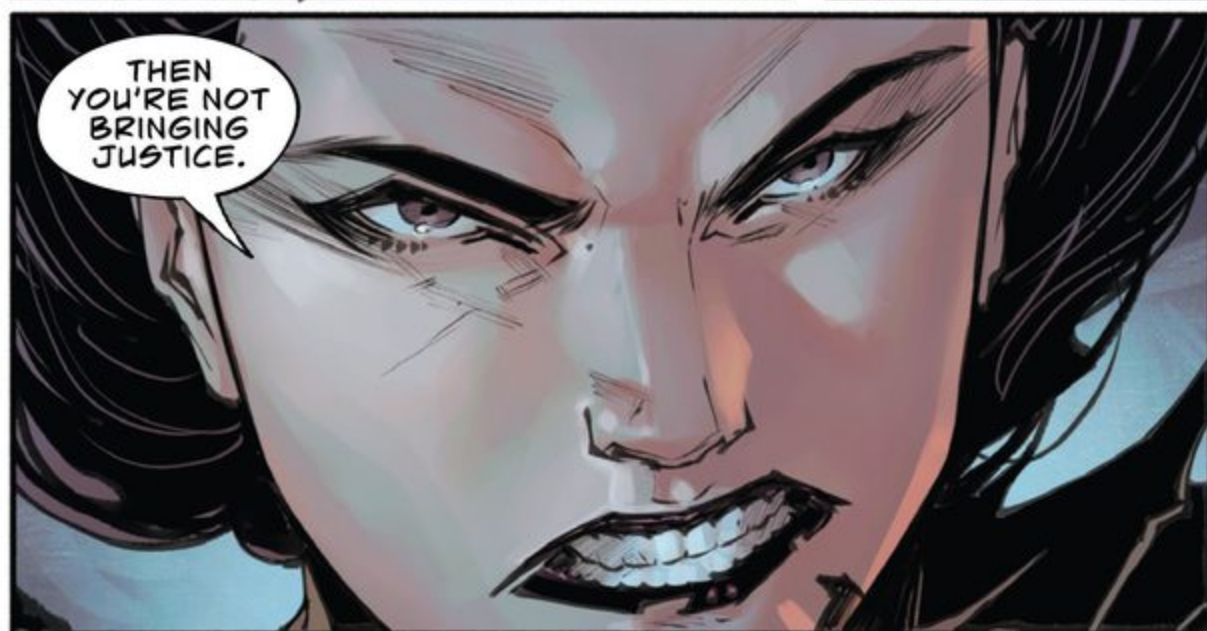


I could make something more beautiful.

...with the Angelus hand, I can make anything.

A more just and loving world.











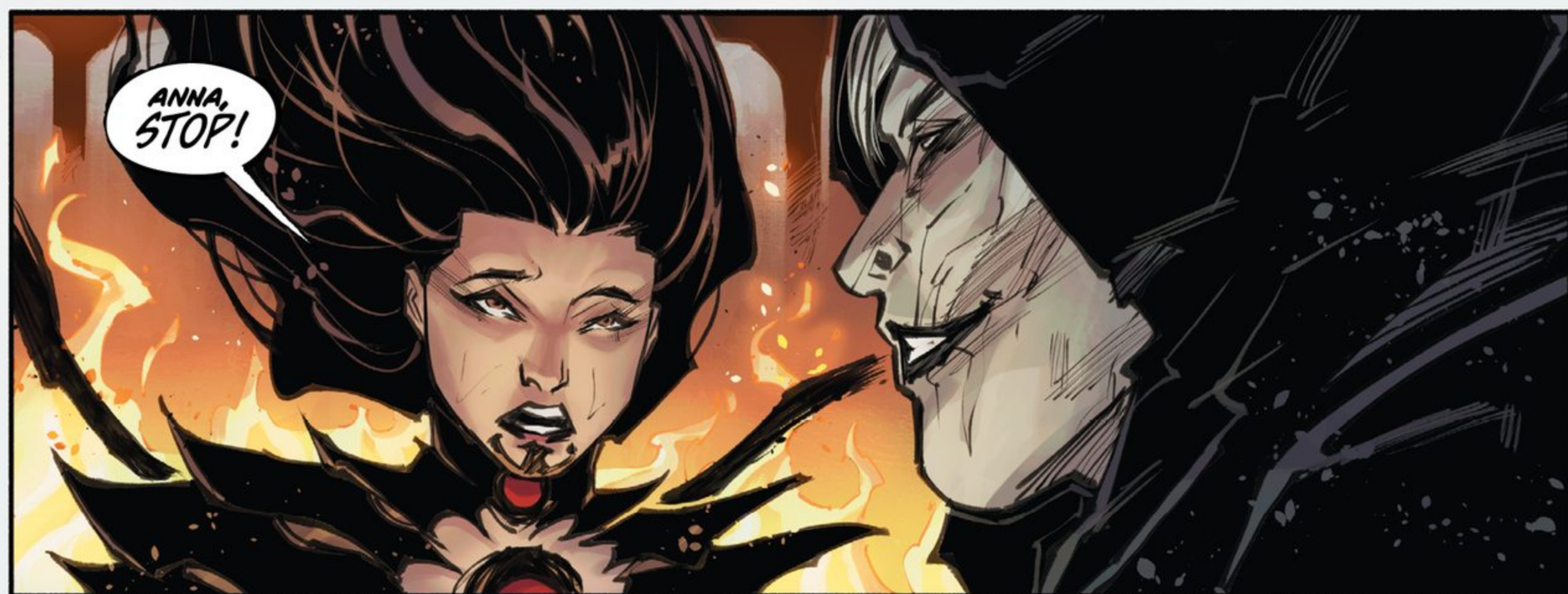
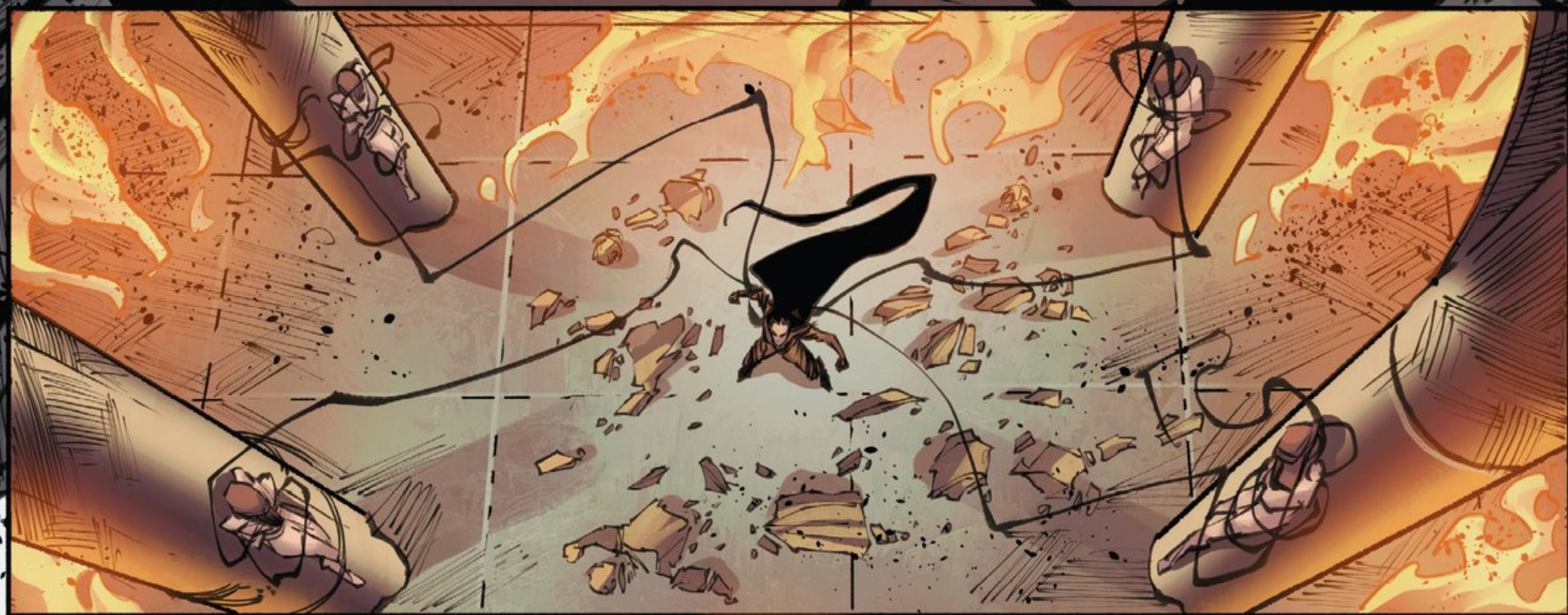




THE LAMPS, THE
CANDELABRAS--

THE OIL--!

VWOOOOSH

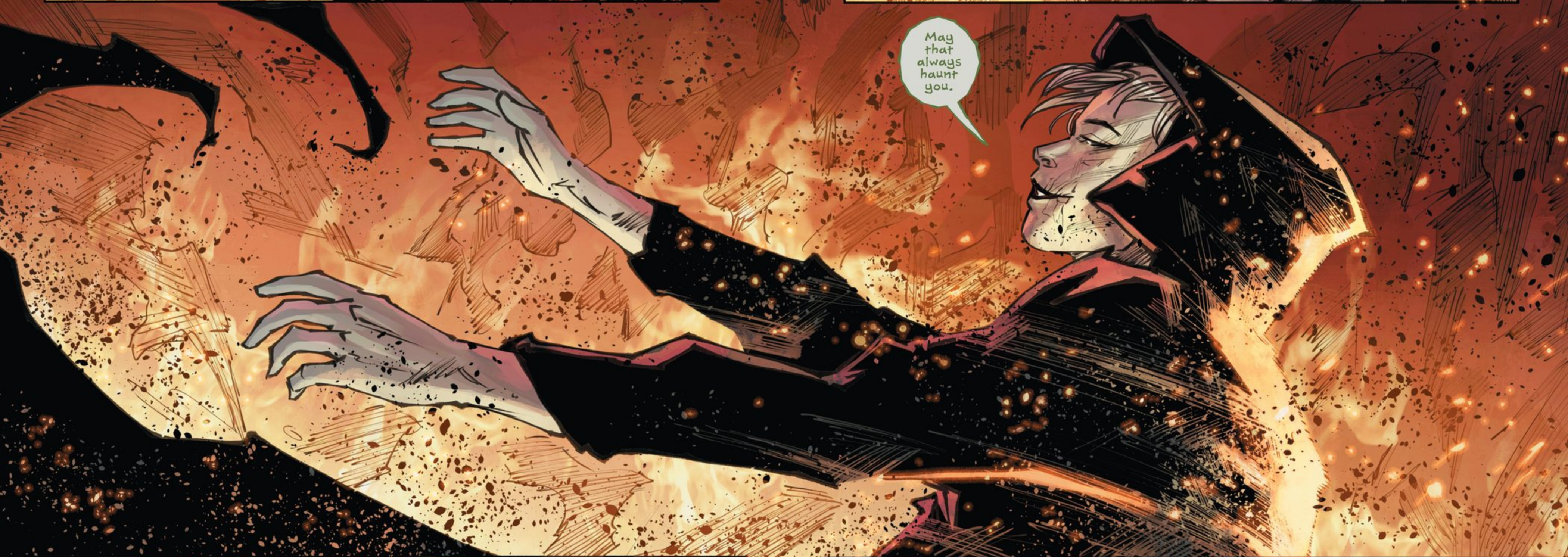
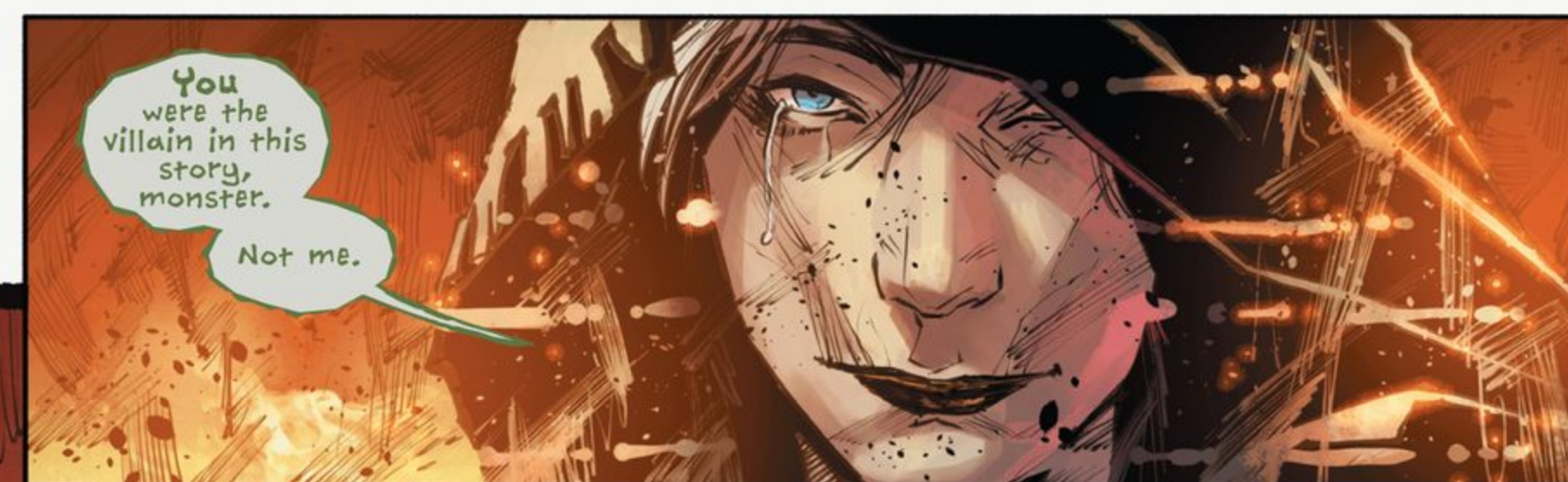


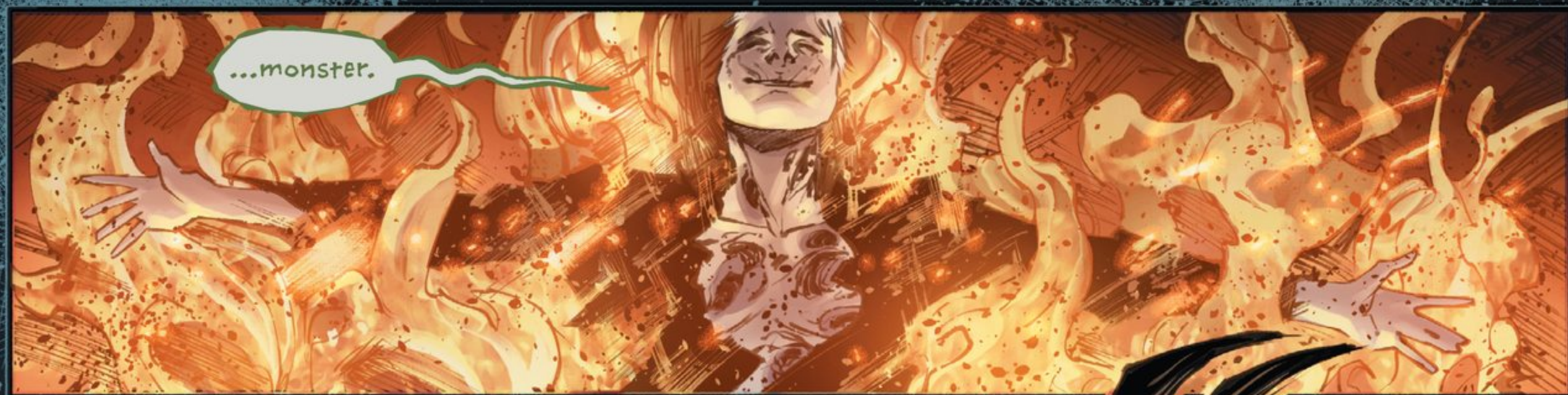


WHAT
DID YOU PUT
YOUR FAITH
IN THAT
BETRAYED
YOU SO
BADLY?



People.





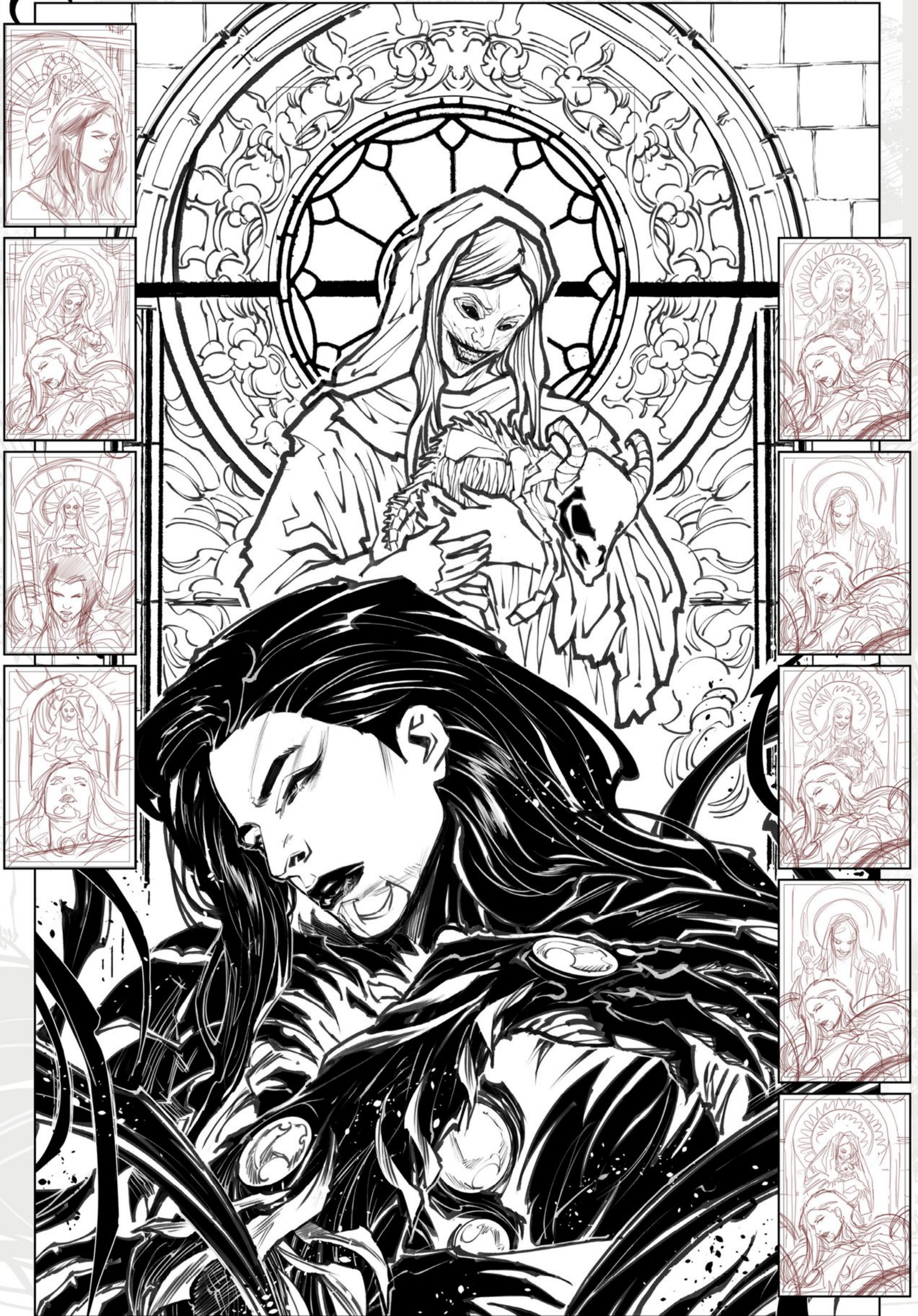
TO BE
CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE!

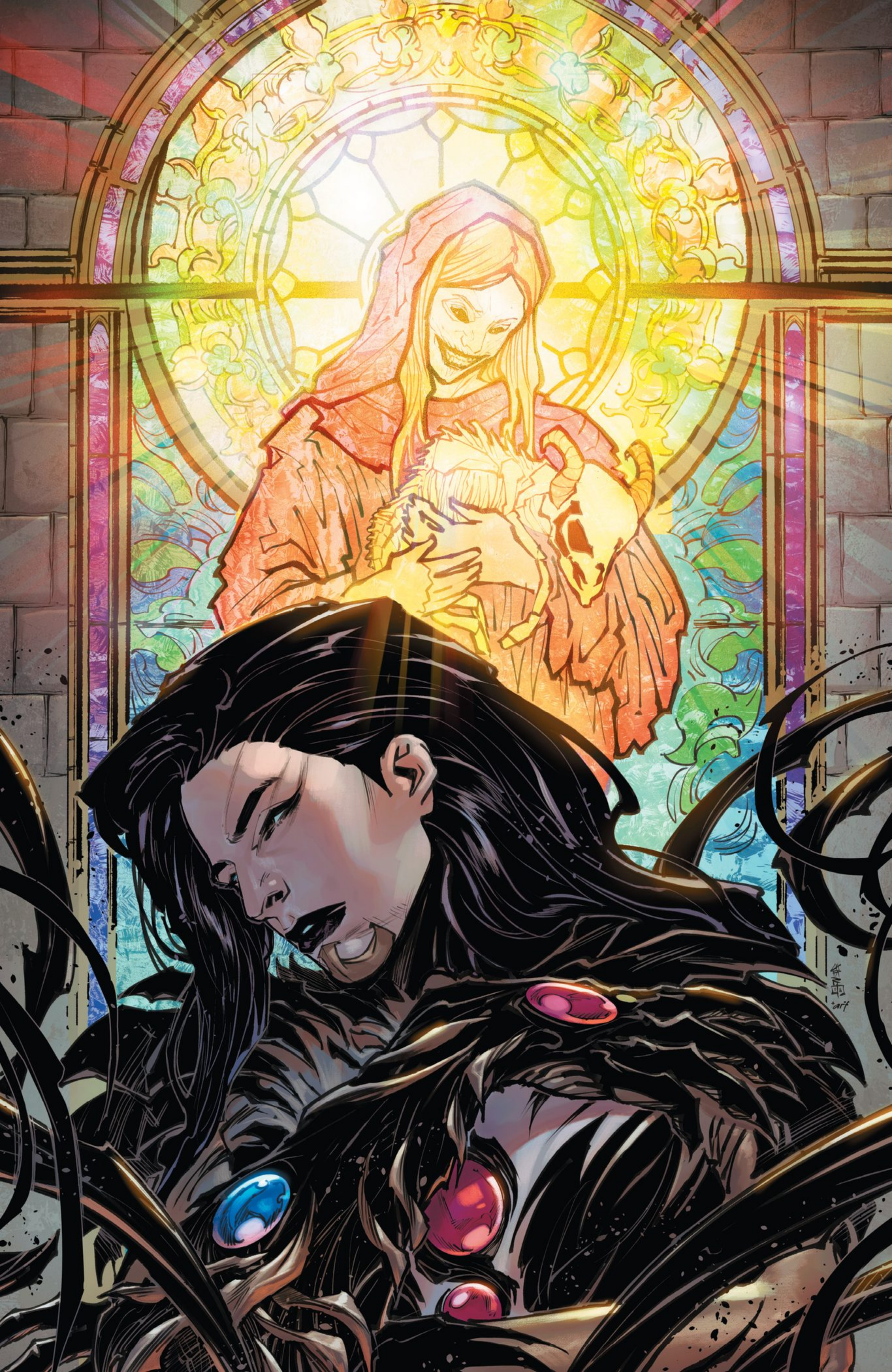
"MY CITY OF RUIN"



WITCHBLADE #17 Gallery • Cover A Process



Witchblade #17, Cover A, process from thumbnail, line art to colors
Art by **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**



WITCHBLADE #17 Gallery • Cover B Process



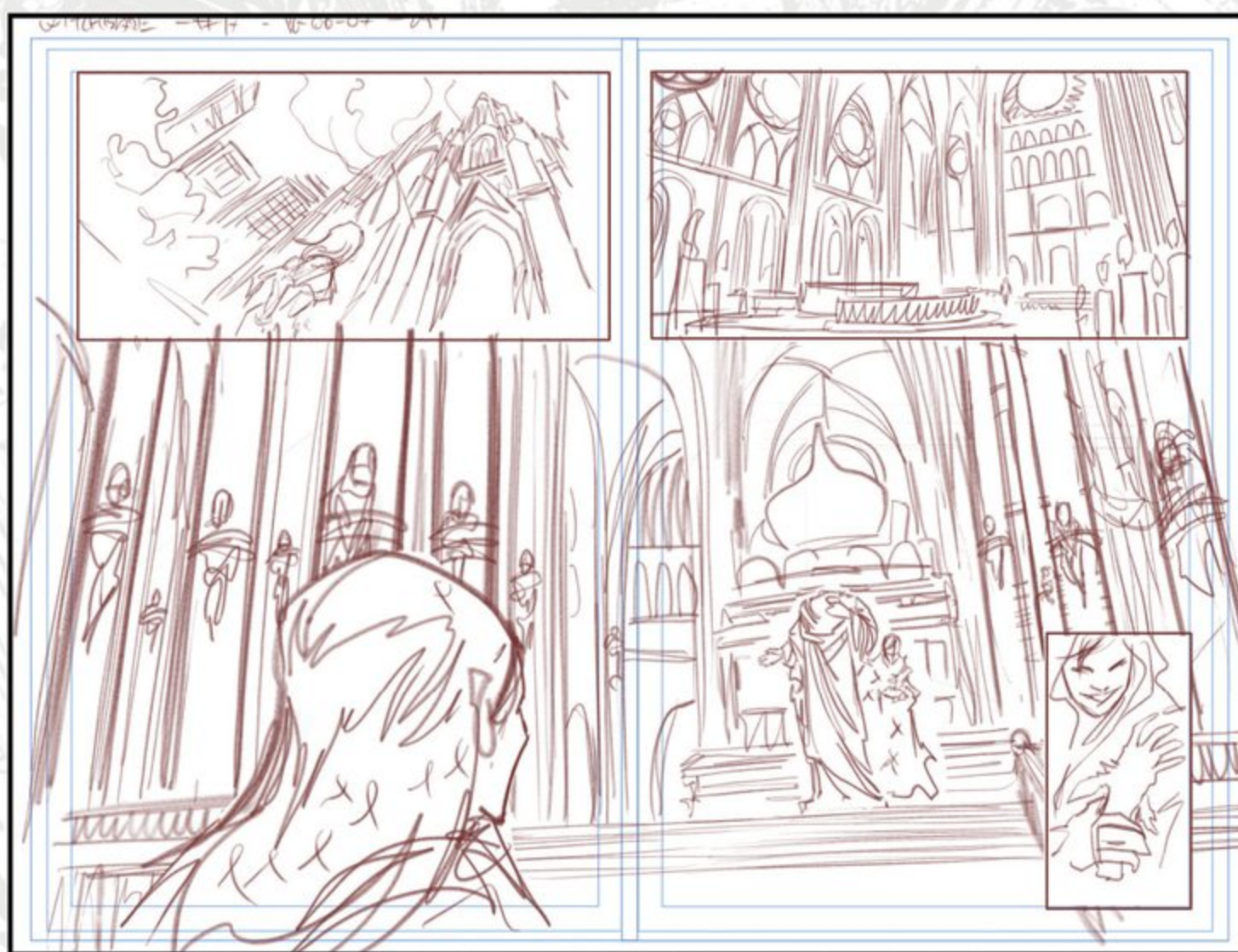
Witchblade #17, Cover B, process from thumbnail, pencils, line art to colors
Art by **Brett Booth**, **Sal Regla**, and **Gibran Ferdian**



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Regla
GIBRAN

WITCHBLADE®

#17 Gallery • Page Process





Creative Team



Marguerite Bennett is a GLAAD-nominated, *New York Times*-bestselling comic book writer based in Los Angeles.

Her credits include DC Comics' *Bombshells*, *Batwoman* and *RWBY*, along with *Animosity*, *Horde*, and *Insexts* through Aftershock Comics, and *MOTHER OF MADNESS* with *Game of Thrones* superstar Emilia Clarke for Image Comics. She has written *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* for Boom Studios, *Josie and the Pussycats* through Archie, *A-Force* and *Years of Future Past* at Marvel, *Red Sonja* and *Sheena* from Dynamite, and the indie horror darling *The Lot* for Bad Idea.

She is the lead writer of *Ark: The Animated Series* from Studio Wildcard.



Giuseppe Cafaro is an Italian artist who is based in Caserta, Italy. He started his professional career with the Italian publisher GGStudio, and right after, in 2012, he started to work for Aspen Comics on books like *Soulfire*, *Fathom: Kiani* and *Trish out of Water*, and Zenescope Entertainment as a cover artist for several years.

He worked over the last 10 years with other publishers, like DC Comics, on *Suicide Squad* and *Catwoman*, and Dynamite Entertainment, on *Red Sonja* and *Vampirella*. He also worked on graphic novels for Boom Studios based on the *Power Rangers* franchise.

In 2021, he collaborated with Tim Seeley and Steve Orlando on *LOADED BIBLE* for Image Comics. Also, he worked on some short stories for Heavy Metal with Blake Northcott and with Phil Smith for the book *Brik Jones: Attorney for Earth*, for his publisher Fighting Lion Comics.



Arif Prianto followed his dreams of working in comics and began his career as a professional colorist in 2007. Since then he has worked on titles from Top Cow Productions, Inc on *WITCHBLADE*, *THE DARKNESS*, for DC on *Batman & The Joker*, *Dark Knights of Steel*, and for Marvel on *Venom* and *Spider Woman*. He says that coloring comics is "the best job ever!"



Troy Peteri has been lettering comics for over 20 years and has worked for most publishers you've heard of, and plenty you haven't. He's lettered everything from *The Avengers*, *Iron Man*, *Wolverine*, and *Amazing Spider-Man* to more recent titles such as *WITCHBLADE*, *Shazam*, and his all-time favorite gig, *Batman & Joker: The Deadly Duo*.



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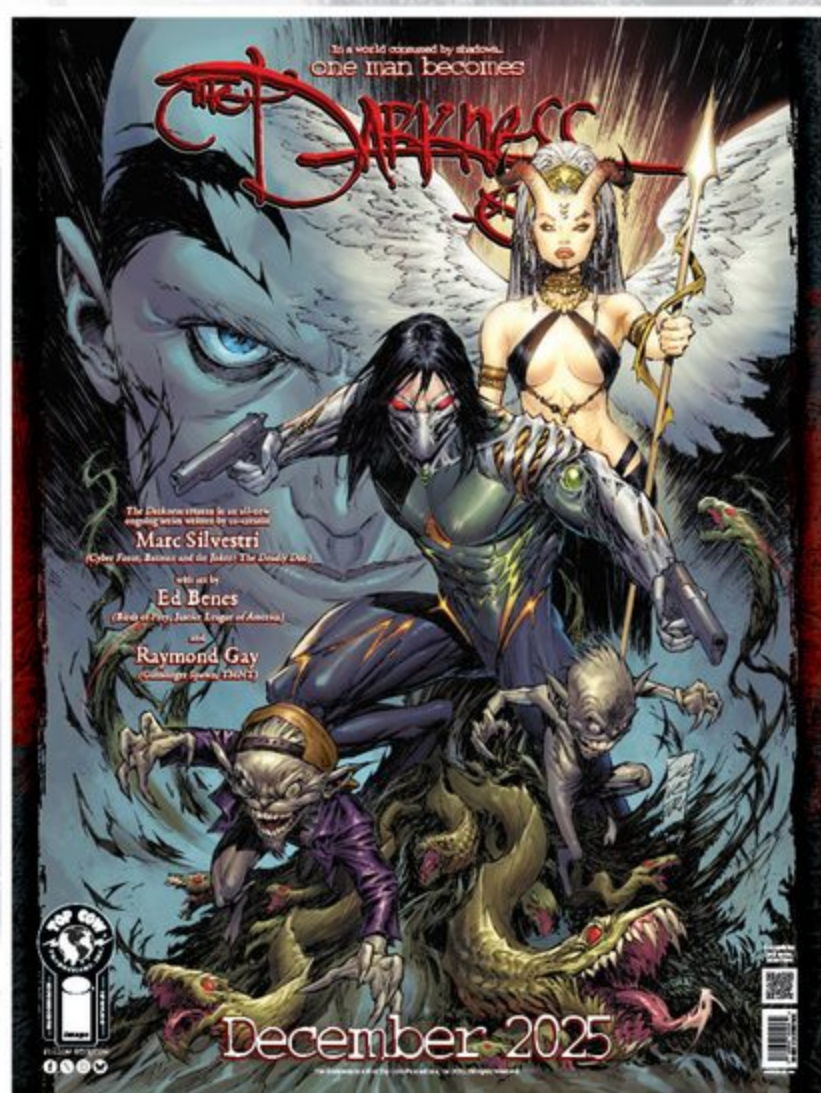
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The Darkness #1 [2025]
cover art by **Marc Silvestri**

Witchblade #17 [2024]
cover art by **Brett Booth**



The Darkness 18" by 24"
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art by **Marc Silvestri**



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Collects:

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plus "The Befana"

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THE DARKNESS

Issue #1 • December Cover Checklist



Cover A, art by
Marc Silvestri and Arif Prianto



Cover B, art by
Ed Benes and Arif Prianto



Cover C, art by
David Mack



Cover D, Blank Sketch cover
w/blue line trade dress



Cover E, 1:10 Virgin/Color, art by
Ed Benes and Arif Prianto



Cover F, 1:25 Virgin/Color, art by
David Mack



Cover G, 1:50 Virgin/Color, art by
Marc Silvestri and Arif Prianto



Cover H, 1:100 Virgin/B&W, art by
Ed Benes



Cover I, 1:250 Virgin/B&W, art by
Marc Silvestri

• Cover J, 1:500 **Marc Silvestri** Signed Virgin/B&W variant. Retailers who order 500 copies or more of Cover A, B, C or D in any combination are eligible to order an additional copy of THE DARKNESS (2025) #1 CVR I INC 1:250 Virgin/B&W variant signed by cover artist **Marc Silvestri**.

• Cover K, 1:1000 **Marc Silvestri** Original art sketch cover variant (limit one per store). Retailers who order 1,000 copies or more of Cover A, B, C or D in any combination are eligible to order an original piece of art drawn on a blank variant cover D by **Marc Silvestri**.

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Issue #2 • January Cover Checklist



Cover A, art by
Raymond Gay and Gilvan Fordian



Cover B, art by
Jason Shawn Alexander



Cover C, 1:25 Virgin/Color, art by
Jason Shawn Alexander

Issue #3 • February Cover Checklist



Cover A, art by
Raymond Gay and Arif Prianto



Cover B, art by
Brett Booth, Sal Regla, and Arif Prianto



Cover C, 1:10 Virgin/Color, art by
Raymond Gay and Arif Prianto



Cover D, 1:25 Virgin/Color, art by
Brett Booth, Sal Regla, and Arif Prianto



Cover E, 1:50 Virgin/Color, art by
Brett Booth and Sal Regla



Join Top Cow and Image Comics for
the return of *The Darkness*!

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From Linda Sejic...
....The classic Greek tale turned
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in volume 2!

Nothing says “opposites attract” like a Life Goddess and the King of the Dead - and after their truly Olympian meet-cute, who could blame Hades and Persephone for wanting a little time alone together? A night of exploring the Underworld brings them closer together, and it’s all harmless flirting and long walks along the River Styx...until it turns out that Persephone can’t leave, magically blocked from exiting the realm of the dead. It’s as big a puzzle to her as it is to her antisocial new beau, but she and Hades will have to solve the mysterious imprisonment fast, because Persephone’s absence has not gone unnoticed.

In the mortal world and above, Persephone’s mother, Demeter, sets out on a justified rampage of maternal aggression, determined to locate her missing daughter. The gods love their drama - but if they don’t tread carefully, what starts as a simple misunderstanding may lead to the world as they know it-flipped upside down.



Punderworld volume 2

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Happy Holidays!

from





SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

